GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7173
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2002
CLOSURE AND MERGER OF CSIR INSTITUTIONS
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has decided to close down 40 out of its 80 outreach centers ;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether CSIR has also decided to merge two of its institutions -the National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM) and the Indian Scientific Documentation Centre (ICDC) ;

(d) if so, the location of both the institutes, their branches and the number of scientists and non-scientists working therein ;

(e) the basis for the merger ;

(f) whether any study was undertaken in this regard ;
(g) if so, the details thereof ;
(h) the financial and other advantage of the merger ; and
(i) the manner in which the surplus staff is proposed to be redeveloped ?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a)&(b) : In the wake of changing economic , industrial and R&D scenario nationally and globally, the process of consolidation, modernization and refurbishing of its national Labs./Instts has been initiated by CSIR.The decision has been taken with a view to deriving optimum benefit from the investments. Accordingly, out of the 94 outreach centres 47 have been identified for closure or merger with other CSIR entities.

(c),(d),(e),(f),(g)&(h) : Yes Sir, the restructuring is based on findings of a review committee constituted with the approval of Vice President, CSIR.The committee in its report observed that focused activities pursued by Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC) were no longer relevant and that National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM) needed to move on a we defined path of developing competence and programmes within its charter of Science Communication. It was also observed that the core competencies and infrastructural facilities of the two institutions need to be detailed and synergised through merger into a single entity for gainfully harnessing the resources. The merged entity is envisioned to be the prime custodian of all information resources on current and traditional knowledge system in science and technology in the country and promote communication in science to diverse constituents at all levels, using the most appropriate te! chnology. Thus, in pursuance of the findings of the review committee decision has been taken to merge Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC), 14, Satsang Vihar Marg, New Delhi- 110 067 with National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM), Dr. KS Krishnan Marg, New Delhi- 110 012.The strength of Scientist ; Scientific & Technical ; and Administrative Personnel at INSDOC is 30, 119 and 85 respectively while at NISCOM it is 74, 128 and 88. INSDOC had 3 centres located at Bangalore, Kolkatta and Chennai while NISCOM has no centre.

(i) : After suitable training the staff will be redeployed to take up the new functions/activities wherever needed depending upon their qualification, experience, age and aptitude.